

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants request the Examiner to reconsider this application in view of the proposed claim amendments above and the following remarks.

Applicants have amended their specification and abstract to correct grammatical and other minor issues, and has attached a substitute specification and abstract in "clean" and "mark on" formats showing each such change. Applicants have also amended claims 1-7 and added new claims 8-9 to more particularly point out the invention.

Applicants are, without prejudice and for purposes of expedition, submitting a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the "double patenting" rejection.

Applicants are also submitting an English language abstract of DE 100 12 809 A1 and request the Examiner to consider this reference. See MPEP 609.

All outstanding issues have been addressed and this application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any minor issues remain outstanding, the Examiner should contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below so they can be resolved expeditiously without need of a further written action.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: 

Robert W. Faris  
Reg. No. 31,352

RWF:ej  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100